

REMARKS

Claims 171 and 181 are amended. New claims 183-184 are added. Claims 171-184 are pending in the application.

Claims 171-182 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by McTeer (U.S. Patent No. 5,939,788), or in the case of claim 182 as being obvious over McTeer. The Examiner is reminded by direction to MPEP §2131 that anticipation requires each and every element of a claim to be disclosed in a single prior art reference. The Examiner is further reminded by direction to MPEP § 2143 that a proper obviousness rejection has the following three requirements: 1) there must be some suggestion or motivation to modify or combine reference teachings; 2) there must be a reasonable expectation of success; and 3) the combined references must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. Claims 171-182 are allowable over McTeer for at least the reason that McTeer fails to disclose or suggest each and every element in any of those claims.

As amended, each of independent claims 171 and 181 recites a thin film comprising Ti and Q where Q comprises one or more alloying elements selected from the group consisting of B, Ba, Be, C, Ca, Ce, Co, Cr, Cs, Dy, Er, Fe, Gd, Hf, Ho, La, Mg, Mn, Mo, Nb, Nd, Ni, P, Pr, S, Sc, Si, Sm, Sr, Ta, V, W, Y, Yb and Zr. The amendment of claims 171 and 181 is supported by the specification at, for example, page 7, lines 27-29; page 9, lines 5-17; and Table 1. McTeer discloses utilization of a barrier layer containing $Ti_xAl_yN_z$ which can optionally be doped with O. McTeer does not disclose or suggest the claims 171 and 181 recited thin film containing Ti and one or more of the recited elements. Accordingly, independent claims 171 and 181 are not anticipated by, or rendered obvious by, McTeer and are allowable over this reference.

Dependent claims 172-180 and 182 are allowable over McTeer for at least the reason that they depend from corresponding allowable base claims 171 and 181.

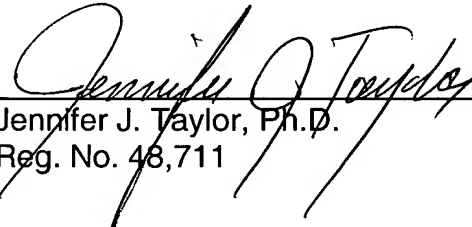
New claims 183-184 do not add "new matter" to the application since each is fully supported by the specification as originally filed. Claims 183 and 184 are supported by the specification at, for example, page 7, lines 27-29.

For the reasons discussed above, claims 171-182 are allowable and claims 183-184 are believed allowable. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests formal allowance of such claims in the Examiner's next action.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____


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